

A Conversation with Ray Bradbury Video Transcript

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): My influence is Edgar Rice Burroughs

Music begins under voice

(Graphic) Image of Edgar Rice Burroughs book “The Warlord of Mars” expands and slightly rotates onto screen.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I fell completely in love with the planet Mars the way he wrote about it. I couldn’t afford to buy the Burroughs books...

(Graphic) Image of the planet Mars zooms into view in upper right corner of screen.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): so I wrote one of his sequels myself, and I wrote about the planet Mars...

(Graphic) Image of Ray Bradbury’s book “The Martian Chronicles” fades in on right side of screen.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): and when I was 12 years old, Mars took me home and I’ve never come back.

(Graphic) Full screen photo of Ray Bradbury waving to camera appears behind subtitles.

(Graphic) U.S. State Department Seal with “presents” fades in and out.

(Text fades in and out) A Conversation with Author Ray Bradbury

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): What I think I can teach people is that a library is more important

(Graphic) Full screen image of a library with bookshelves

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): than a college or a University.

(Graphic) Full screen image of the word “universitatis” etched in stone on a brick wall.

New music begins.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I grew up in a poor family, I could never make it to college... Thank God for that.

(Graphic) Image on right side of screen of Ray as a small child

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): But I had enough sense, when I was 18 years old...

(Graphic) Image on right side of screen of Ray as a teenager standing next to an older gentleman.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): to start going to the library five or six nights a week.

(Graphic) Full-screen image of library shelves full of books

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): Every morning I wrote, every afternoon I sold newspapers on the street corner,

(Graphic) Full-screen image of a stack of newspapers

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): and I graduated from the library when I was 28 years old.

(Graphic) Image in top right corner of screen of Ray Bradbury as a young man in his twenties.

Music changes slightly again

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I taught myself about ME going to the library. You don't get that in colleges and Universities.

(Graphic) Full-screen image of an older, gray-haired Ray Bradbury smiling

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): If you burn books, you burn everything in a society.

(Graphic) Full-screen image of books burning

(Text in lower left corner) In 2008, Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

(Graphic) Image on right side of the book cover of *Fahrenheit 451*

(Text in lower left corner) was part of a literary exchange with Egypt

(Graphic) Image of the book cover for Naguib Mahfouz's novel *The Thief and the Dog* fades onto screen under *Fahrenheit 451* image.

(Text on right side of screen) The Big Read Egypt/U.S. A Global Cultural Initiative of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Arts Midwest.

(Graphic) Image on left side of screen of the official Big Read logo that shows an icon of a person reading a book

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I'm so proud to be published in Egypt.

(Graphic) Full screen image of Egyptian citizens posing for cameras during the Big Read launch in Alexandria, Egypt.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I'm so proud to be part of the library there because...

(Graphic) Full screen image of the exterior of the library in Alexandria, Egypt.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): 5,000 years ago, it was the first library that was burned.

(Graphic) Full screen image of ancient illustration of burning books.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): The network of information you can get on your computer is not quite the same as the kind of information you get in a library.

(Graphic) Image of green digits fades into image of books on a library shelf.

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): If I had my way, I would burn the computers and not the libraries.

(Graphic) Full screen image of a computer in flames

Music changes to dramatic tone

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): Let me give you advice to all writers, at all times, everywhere... I have a simple rule to give to you:

(Graphic) Full screen image of Ray Bradbury's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): Do what you love, and love what you do... Do what you love, and love what you do.

(Graphic) Image on right side of screen of present-day Ray Bradbury in a colorful button down shirt

Voice of Ray Bradbury (with subtitles on screen): I'm sending you all my love, I put my arms around you with my love, and I thank you for your attention. God bless you and keep you.

(Graphic) Black and white image of Ray Bradbury with hands folded in front of him smiling into the camera fades to black.